

Application No. 09/858,096
Amendment dated November 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 18 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 6, 11, and 14 are allowed.

Claims 2-5, 7, and 8 are amended to depend from allowed claim 6, and claim 17 is amended to depend from allowed claim 14.

Claims 1 and 13 are cancelled.

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

The indication, in the Office Action that the Examiner accepts the drawings filed May 15, 2001 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 2-5, 7, 8, and 17 have been amended to depend from an allowed claim. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to improve the form thereof. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7-9, 13, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Usami in view of Ellson is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 1 and 13 are cancelled rendering the rejections thereof moot.

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Claims 2-5, 7, and 8 are amended to depend from claim 6. The Examiner has stated that claim 6 is allowable. Accordingly claims 2-5, 7, and 8 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

Claim 17 is amended to depend from claim 14. Claim 18 depends from claim 17. The Examiner has stated that claim 14 is allowable. Accordingly claims 17 and 18 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-9, 13, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Usami in view of Ellson should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

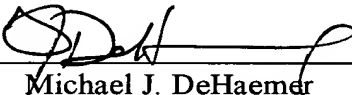
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be

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construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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